

The

Scribblerist

FREE SAMPLES!

A REPUTATION FOR PERFORMANCE

Issue #5

*** THE "WHOOOPS" ISSUE ***

31 October 1988

URBANE SCRAWL Part I

Egads, am I really two and a half weeks late? Holy cattle, that certainly was unintentional. Work, work, work. Common lament? Sure, but I really do mean it when I say it. I'm trying desperately to put out a quality product in the midst of general scholastic chaos. It's funny because up to now, no matter how much I put things off I'd always have time to get everything done on schedule (or reasonably close). But now I find that I'm actually running out of time. There really are not enough hours in the day for me to complete what must be done. There was a stretch of twelve out of thirteen days (eight of them consecutive) where I didn't go to sleep before 4AM and usually not until 5 or 6AM and ended up amassing no more than four or five hours of sleep each night. Looking back on it I'm astounded that I was able to function even reasonably well during that period, but I did. Got another one of those coming up in a week or two. Arrgh!

So, essentially, everything has suffered so don't think I'm targeting my favorite hobby members, my subscribers. No, you're just suffering the consequences of a boy with big dreams but a limited framework within which to work. Actually I'd kind of enjoy blowing this joint for a while and just hang out in nightclubs for awhile. Got ants in my pants and I need to dance. Not exactly sure why I want to shape my thang so much, just know I gotta!

As for the zine itself we're sticking with the digest format, at least for the time being. And, yes, we did pick up that subzine I was talking about. In fact, we picked up two, one being edited by myself as a vehicle for the Snowball Fighting game which started this issue. Speaking of games, I know I said I wouldn't open any more for a long time but I couldn't resist (shades of Melinda Holley, who at last count was running 30-32 games, had just started 3 others, and had two openings yet to fill). This game, however, in a blatant attempt to boost circulation, is open to novices only so I could use references/referrals. You may also have noticed that we're bulking up. I welcome this but I can't do it all by myself so I welcome your contributions (I'm begging, please send me stuff!).

Well, as we wrap up this opening flow of consciousness monologue I'll try to think of something particularly germane to relate to you. The elections are coming up. Oh wow. I know the choices are not all that exciting this time around but I do encourage all of you to go out and vote, it does make a difference. And don't let the polls run the election as I'm afraid they might do by discouraging Dukakis supporters. But no matter who is "your man" let's get out there and vote. And hey, be careful.

CATCALLS FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

When I was first getting the letters sorted for this issue there didn't seem to be all that many letters to include, but taking a second look things look pretty good. I definitely encourage everyone with any opinion whatsoever to write in and give me a piece of his/her mind. The zine is for you as well as me, so if you think of something you'd like to see included let me know. This time around we've got a lot of different topics covered, but I'd be spoiling it if I told, so read on ...

David Orne:

I like the format fine, but it would be better if you found a stapler long enough to fasten the sheets together on the fold. Hard to find, but they do exist.

What are the notations after the names on your circulation list representing?

<<I've been keeping my eyes open for a long stapler but doubt if I will secure one in the near future. The problem? Expense. Come on, I'm in college, publish a zine, and have a girlfriend. Spending money? Hah! As for the notations, they represent how and/or how long a subber gets the zine. A number means they subscribe and the subscription runs through that issue number, "T" is trade, and "MS" is mutual subscription. Very simple, actually, and kind of interesting.>>

Eric Walton:

As I read back over what I have said about Star Wars I find that I have been giving the wrong impression to many people over how I feel about such a system. I do support "Star Wars" but not the way it is run now. Perhaps I did not give that impression in my not so eloquent letters, but I am going for an engineering/math double major and us guys are not supposed to be eloquent! <<Something that should be changed in this humble editors opinion!>> I am also (horrors!) a Republican and have supported Reagan in almost every policy he has started, but not "Star Wars." Why?

"Star Wars" has been run like most government agencies are run, poorly. The government has spent too much time debating, as well as cutting money from and throwing money at "Star Wars" and what it could give us. Why doesn't somebody wise up? But perhaps my position is explained best by Jerry Pournelle in the afterword of, CALL TO BATTLE!, for what he writes explains how I feel:

"There are always two approaches to difficult goals. One is to try to solve all problems before deciding what to do. The other is to decide what you will do, then deal with the problems as they get in the way.

"The second approach won World War II and put us on the moon. We're now using the first approach, and it has yet to put a station in space - or even to build an O-ring.

"If you would have peace, be prepared for war. We are not prepared."

<<Thousands of warheads. Not prepared for war as it pertains to the discussion on SDI? I think we are too prepared and some are fast becoming too anxious to flex our nuclear muscle. Do we analyze things too much before we act upon them? Maybe so, but when you're talking about something as massive, expensive, and internationally politically explosive as SDI it pays to do your homework. It would be ridiculous to plunge into a one trillion dollar project without knowing where you're going with it. And to believe that we jumped into WWII and the "race for the moon" is naive. The public demands to know where this country is going and where its money is going. In a day and age where the American public is so unwilling to aid the less fortunate it is doubtful that they'd be willing to blindly accept such an expensive project, even if it is wrapped tightly in the American flag.>>

David Orne:

My opinion on Star Wars? I thought it was a pretty good movie, but they could have given Carrie Fisher a sexier wardrobe and hair style. And where were all the other men in the universe? Does the liberation movement slip into reverse between now and then?

<<The liberation movement was in full force, that's why Carrie wasn't a mere sex

object [unfortunately]!>>>

Don Williams:

I would like to offer another slant to the SDI issue. While I strongly disagree with the current spending and priority given SDI (both too high in my book), I am not against development of the technology and systems required to implement the defense proposed by SDI.

I do, however, think that a significant point is often overlooked. SDI basically proposes to destroy nuclear warheads by destroying their delivery vehicles, that is, by shooting down enemy missiles and airborne aircraft.

This appears to me to be a significant flaw in the SDI's purpose - delivery systems don't kill, warheads do. What is to prevent the use of alternative delivery systems for nuclear weapons? Even more, what is to prevent the use of stationary, pre-set devices from being planted in the cities of enemies? While such nuclear "mining" of each others' cities would be difficult (especially for the US), I don't think it impossible. (The idea of several mutli-megaton nuclear mines sitting in a visiting Soviet freighter in the harbors of NY, LA or San Diego borders on the paranoid, I don't find it inconceivable.)

SDI doesn't make things more stable or safe than they already are, and SDI **does** have significant potential for offensive use: a first strike is more thinkable if the "umbrella" afforded by SDI makes the aggressor believe he can strike and avoid massive retaliation.

No, SDI is part of the problem, and it doesn't deal with the real solution. It may not be popular, but until we find a way to interdict and stop the physical dynamics of fission and fusion, nothing will truly address the madness of nuclear warfare.

<<Don raises some important specifics which, in turn, raise the general question of where are we going with all of this? SDI is nothing more than another step up in the escalation process; for every fabulous idea we come up with to thwart nuclear war there is bound to arise a way to get around it and subvert its usefulness. Am I advocating a freeze? I don't know. I think it would be impossible to implement or verify [let alone get the American people to agree to] but there has to be something done to stop the escalation. An obsolete system is not worth the one trillion price tag. Don is right in stating that the only way we'll be able to escape the terror that the nuclear threat levies on everyone is if we can find some way to neutralized the actual processes of fission and fusion. Idealistic? Very. Possible? Probably not. But just because the threat cannot be totally eliminated doesn't mean that we have to continue pumping money into largely ineffective "deterents." Is the technology developed by SDI research useful? Sure it is and I'm all for federal funding of various and sundry research projects; but haven't we progressed to a point where we can support such projects for themselves rather than rely on technological advances springing from defense technology. Maybe we should follow Eric Walton's advice and just pump money into a project and see what turns up. But why must that project be defense related? Let's make it a goal of this nation to, say, develop artificial intelligence to its full potential. Confront the problems as they arise and apply the knowledged gained to various fields, including, horrors, defense.>>>



Pete Gaughan:

Your note on F<<leet>> vs. A<<rm>>, Mark: I've always ruled, in accordance with the "Badly written order" rule, that since the rulebook does not require the player to label fleet or army, I won't require it either. Obviously, if someone tries to order a fleet to an inland province, or an army out to sea, the order fails -- but "Mid-Atlantic to Portugal" is quite a legal order. On coastal designations, I only require them when required for clarity -- "Black Sea to Bulgaria" implies "e/c" so far as I'm concerned.

This is not to say that some gas don't do it your way -- just that I favor liberal efforts to give each unit a legal order, not liberal efforts trying to frustrate their purposes.

<<All right, you win on the F vs. A designations. Somehow I had gotten the impression that the rulebook required such labeling but I was, and I admit it, mistaken. I'd still very much prefer that you do label armies and fleets for my convenience but it is not, nor, for the record, has it ever been, required. The coastal designations are an entirely different situation. The rulebook does require that the coasts be identified, and I'll abide by it. Why? Well, Calhauer obviously thought it would be necessary and who am I to rebuke the grand poohbah. But more important is the fact that the non-labeling or mis-labeling of a coastal province can be used as a tool of diplomacy and/or treachery. The rulebook provides for that loophole and I am not one who is willing to shut it. After all, I'd feel like a total jck-ass if I messed up someone's elaborately laid plans.>>

Dick Martin:

Yes, it's quite possible to be moral and not be religious. Why? I can't say. I just speak from experience -- I know people who are quite "moral" (by that I mean able to distinguish between "right" and "wrong"), but not at all religious. Certainly children grasp morality more quickly than the underlying religion (if any).

.. Better question: Is it possible to be both religious and moral and on network TV?

<<The answer to your question, probably not, since to buy national TV time requires BIG bucks and to get those bucks you have to be theatrical, exploitative, and a whole myriad of other unsavory adjectives. Spreading the faith? Yes, but it is a faith so distorted and perverted by non-spiritual desires that it may as well be a political ideology rather than one to guide one thru everyday life>>

Don Williams:

Religion has a place in modern life, though what place (role) it plays should be up to the individual. Religion, or to steal a phrase from the secular humanists (among others), belief systems, help establish a code of behavior, an ethical compartment. It often serves to give people and cultures otherwise unrelated to each other a common basis of understanding (or as is also often the case, misunderstanding).

Does it insure a pleasant afterlife? Excuse me, but I don't think so...while many, many religions offer guarantees of eternal beatitude or what have you, I believe that each person must look to his own faith for any certainty he/she can derive. In answer to the question, "Does one have to be religious to be moral?", well, that almost begs the question, "Does being religious automatically insure one's morality?" The answer to both questions is no -- if an individual's belief system does not include an omnipresent, conscient deity -- or any kind of deity or supernatural being/entity -- that individual may still behave in a very moral, humane, and compassionate manner.

//You are right when you say that the role that religion plays in an individual's life is up to him/her. The ironic fact of the matter, however, is that there have always been, still are, and always will be an undeniable urge to institutionalize one's beliefs. Look at the church. Catholicism becomes insufferable to people and up springs the Protestant Reformation. Do these "rebels" find solace in their personal relationship with a god? No, they must go out and impress their faith on others. I'm sure that this trait is simply endemic to the human race [I only wish people could be as, pshaw, enlightened as I am, cough, gag; that's why I love the informal debate] but it is funny how these institutions have pressed themselves so firmly into peoples' [sub]consciouses. I know people who are very devout and strongly believe in and trust their faith yet they feel guilty if they do not attend church on a regular basis, even if it is due to situations outside of their control. What ever happened to the personal relationship with one's God? The

church still holds its "monopoly on salvation." Sad but true. Religion and morality? It seems that even though there exists today a multitude of "belief systems" the essential aspects of each of them form a part of our cultural morality. No longer is it necessary to be religious to be moral since religion has infused society with its own values and beliefs. Religion was such an overwhelming part of society for hundreds of years and its legacy is the foundation on which our morality is laid. Do we need to be religious? No, not necessarily, but we must recognize that almost all morality springs from some sort of religious system.>>

Tom Nash:

...I really disagree with your VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE comments on novices and feuding <<last issue>>. While I am certainly no Chris Carrier, and do not have a fetish for feuding, there is, to me, something fascinating about the whole thing. Unlike some anti-feuding folks, if the Hobby was simply games, and every zine a mere warehouse with nothing but "A mun-TYR" endlessly repeated, I probably would have gotten bored quickly. What makes Diplomacy such an enduring fascination to many of us is the fact that it's not just another war game, but a game of personalities, personalities in conflict, a game of controlled aggression and legitimized sociopathy. So too the hobby. What hooked me as I entered as a novice was the fact that it wasn't just a bunch of geeky hex-gamers. There are strong personalities which clash, often ferociously, issues beyond whether an A/T alliance is viable or not, issues and concerns that have to do with ethics, values, conflict resolution, personal commitment, etc.

This is real stuff, and as a still relative novice, it fascinates the hell out of me. What do you think makes PRAXIS so popular? The strategy articles? Come on. The baseball stuff? Naw, it's because Alan deals intensely and intelligently with the feud stuff without taking sides, so both sides participate. I literally hunger to sort out the history...what were the Masters and Highfield affairs? Why does Olsen refuse Brux's mail? And is Sacks as crazy as he appears?

Immature, sure. Annoying, well in some zines like MAGUS with its endless prattling that lacks any sense of humor or fair play, yep. But take a look at the latest FIAT BELLUM which has Brux's reply to Don Williams' criticism of the letters to the Zarse and Gervik parents, copies of the letters Brux wrote, a letter from Zarse to him that he included to the Zarse parental units, and Williams' still highly critical response to Brux and his tactics. This is **good stuff!!!** And I think not about to drive novices away.

Let's not always be so protective of novices, and I'm not pinning this one on you. It's an attitude I see a lot. They aren't fragile. And if they are they'll drop out of the hobby anyway as soon as they get stabbed for the first time. Face it, if they choose this game they must be somewhat thick skinned. It's a lot more devastating to get blitzed in Spring '02 by three of your neighbors, and be eliminated by '03 than to find out that Bruce Linsey and Dick Martin don't like each other and aren't afraid to let other people know it.

<<I agree with you to a large extent. I find feuding to be fascinating and entertaining in some respects. And I know that it would be naive of me to expect this or any other gathering of people to be free of disagreements [and hell, I admit it, it would be a lot less interesting!]. The problem comes in the fact that the hatred and the expression of such is often unrestrained and vicious. Diplomacy, and hence the hobby, is a game of "controlled aggression." Agreed. But what happens when the controls disappear or are simply ignored? What happens is that you get a hobby filled with bitterness and spite. No novice enters the hobby believing it to be free from conflict but when that conflict is grossly excessive it does no one any good. PRAXIS and FIAT BELLUM are both excellent zines, and much of that excellence is derived from the way they handle feuds. Alan takes a very neutral stance and is able to take pokes at both sides. Don, whose distaste for Brux is no secret, is able to deal with that dislike in a rational, clear-headed manner. It is often just as entertaining and, more importantly, much more persuasive. The real danger is that these personal attacks may cross over and outside of the hobby and become truly destructive. To quote a bit of press from Don Williams to Bob Olsen, "However attractive it might be, Bob, exchanging personal-life strikes with Linsey will not solve the problem; the hobby could well devolve into chaos and blackmail with people involving themselves in such exchanges." My fear as concerns novices is that they might get sucked into such exchanges from word go. That's no introduction to a hobby, any hobby.>>

Charles Greger:

OK, I have a tentative idea (question) you might like to put to the test in your line. I'm serious about finding a solution:

What would be the perfect game table?

Assumptions: I'm talking board games, not ping-pong or pool or something. Also, there might be more than four players at a sitting i.e. Diplomacy, Civilization, etc; so four sides may not be the right solution.

Things to consider: How many legs? One in the middle or the traditional four that'll get in peoples' way? Should the table be round or hexagonal or what? What storage height would be best? What surface would be best? What should the table be constructed of? How should the chairs be? Etc, etc.

<<Good question, and I definitely encourage contributions (even you, Charles!). I'll accept descriptions, schematic drawings, both, or whatever else you've got in mind. My ideas, and whoever else takes the time, will be in next issue.>>

David Orne:

The American system of choosing the chief executive has gotten so screwed up, it is hard to think of a way to make it worse. While it is true that the public should choose between two or three candidates of differing philosophies, the terms "liberal" and "conservative" have become almost meaningless. Just look at the vice-presidential picks.

The most ridiculous part of the system is our way of narrowing down the list to two candidates: the primary. This time around we started with seven democrats (remember the Seven Dwarfs?); I know it's been a long time, so think back. The campaign goes on for so long now that those running spend more time raising funds than campaigning. When they do, they avoid talking about the issues while hoping one of the others will screw up. Which they do, of course. We are talking about human beings.

So, by the time we actually get to voice an opinion, Babbitt is out for telling the truth about the deficit and Hart might as well be out for, well, being Gary Hart. Then a small percentage of the voters of Iowa pare down the list a bit in the caucuses, and New Hampshire does a bit more in the first primary. Suddenly, the choices of the country have been cut in half by two very non-representative states.

By the time the larger states get a chance to vote, the choices are very slim. California is the largest state in the union, but for their primary George Bush was the sole surviving Republican, and only Jesse Jackson was left hanging on until the end against Dukakis. What kind of choice did they have? Of course, the people of the Granola State (those that live there are either fruits, nuts, or flakes) may have pushed Pee Wee Herman to the front of the pack, but that is their right.

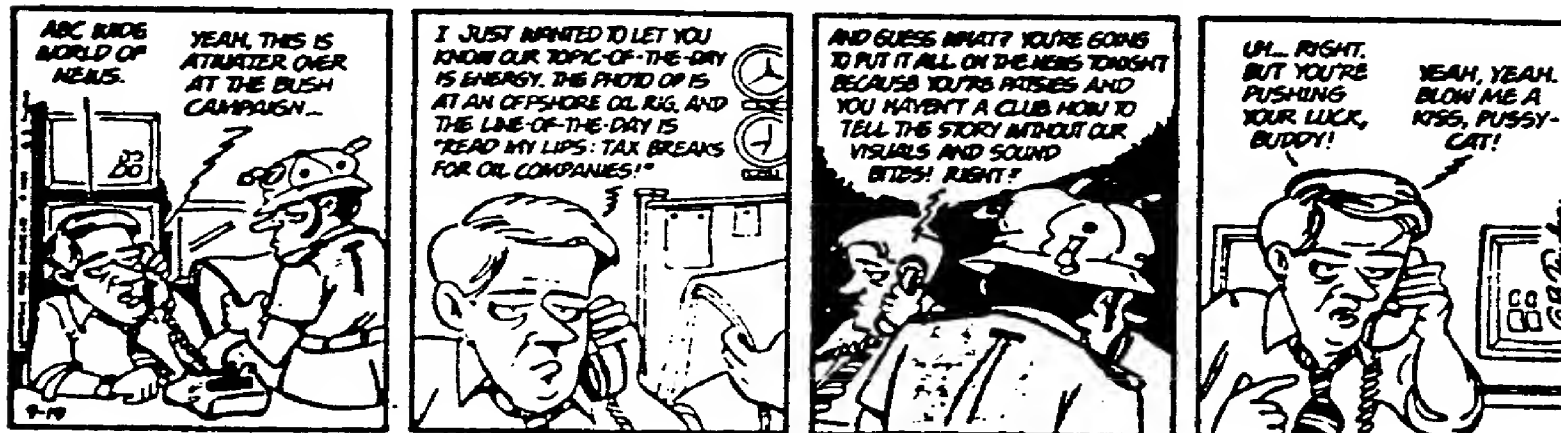
What we need is a National Primary where everyone votes on the same day. Make it the first Tuesday of August, three months before the final election. A runoff for the top two or three (if the third gets, say, 20% of the vote) would be held a month later, leaving two months for the finalists to campaign head-to-head.

The National Primary system would save tax dollars, emphasize the issues, and give the public a real choice rather than discourage capable leaders such as Mario Cuomo from entering the race as our current system does.

<<An interesting idea and one that I'd like to see discussed, especially seeing as how so many voters are disappointed in the choice of candidates this time around. This system has a number of things going for it as you pointed out but I do see a couple problems. For one, although tax dollars may be saved the candidates are going to be forced to raise even more money on their own to finance their campaigns. Why? The primary system allows for those with little name recognition to slowly build up a following and a certain amount of recognition. This is mainly done thru the nightly news and the print media. Who'd ever heard of Dukakis or Babbitt or duPont or Gephardt? Outside of their own states, very few. The primary system allows candidates to "hit their stride" and gives them a chance to get a campaign up and running. A national primary will force candidates to come into the race with an already existing nationwide campaign apparatus, not an easy task and one that requires a lot of money which, in turn, means less time for campaigning. Tied in with this is the fact that the candidates will need to project, nationwide, a desirable image. The primary system allows for blunders, it also allows for one to explain oneself. If you say, "raise taxes" and consequently get destroyed in

the Vermont primary you still are afforded the opportunity of convincing the voters in the next state that that needs to be done and, hence, can claw your way back into the race. But that's just my opinion. Anyone else?>>>

<<<>>The editor checking back one more time. I'd like to thank all of you for writing and I definitely encourage your responses to either your fellow subbers comments or my own scribblings. If you see anything else in this zine that you'd like to discuss feel free to write, it's highly encouraged, fun, and doesn't require that you wear innumerable layers of latex to participate. SDI? Obviously more room for discussion so submit your own musings. Religion? Look for my own additional comments elsewhere. Feuding? What's it all about anyway? Game tables and politics? Throw in a smoke-filled room and you've got a convention. So come on, entertain and inform us!!!



PLEASE SIR, MAY I HAVE SOME MORE

Well, with the start of the Snowball Fighting game in this issue I thought that for sure that would be the end of the games here for a while. But as anybody who knows me can tell you, I'm never satisfied with the status quo. Soooooooo...

I've decided to put my money where my mouth is as regards novices. I am opening one last game of Diplomacy to novices only [sorry Melinda], meaning that at the time they sign up this game should be their first (or close to it, we ain't picky here). Aside from being a blatant attempt to boost readership I'd also like to help people new to the hobby get adjusted and hopefully provide them with a good read and some fun in the meantime. Like every other game of regular Diplomacy in this rag a subscription is required [\$4.50 for 10 issues] as well as a one time gamefee of \$5, which will get you my [sub]zine, INTERLOPER, for as long as you play. So far, one brave soul has signed on. Nick Sebrell. Make him feel welcome. Also, any publishers out there who come in contact with novices. I could use the publicity!

Other openings : NONE!

URBANE SCRAWL Part II

Before we get to the games there are a couple things that have either caught my attention or been bothering me since last issue.

When 1 January 2000 rolls around the American public is going to be faced with a dilemma of uncomprehensible dimensions, quite apart from the hangover. What are we going to do with all those checks that read "19----"? It's staggering, ain't it?

Best button ever seen : "Nuke a Gay Whale for Christ."

Whoever said it is better to have loved and lost than to have never loved at all simply didn't know what the hell he was talking about. Lucky dog.

Now that I got that off my chest what say you folks to game reports? Onward ho...

"Tricky Turk Could Mean Trouble for Powers-That-Be"

The Players:

| | | |
|---------|----------------|--|
| AUSTRIA | Andrew YORR | 14001 Oak Meadows #917, Universal City, TX 78148 |
| ENGLAND | Chris HURLEY | 3508 Orbitan Rd, Parkville, MD 21234 |
| FRANCE | David ORNE | 1234 Reynolds Rd #242, Lakeland, FL 33801 |
| GERMANY | Jim DIEHL | 10530 Riverview Rd, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 |
| ITALY | Chuck HANNA | 379 Wilet Ct, Severna Park, MD 21146 |
| RUSSIA | Jim NICKEL | 426 East Columbia St, Falls Church, VA 22046 |
| TURKEY | Charles GREGER | 2621 McCulloch Apt #1A, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403 |

Fall 1901 Orders

| | |
|---------|--|
| AUSTRIA | F alb-GRE, A BUD-rum, A SER S A BUD-rum |
| ENGLAND | A yor-NWY, F NTH C A yor-NWY, F lon-ENG |
| FRANCE | A spa-POR, A gas-SPA, F bre-MAD |
| GERMANY | F DEN holds, A kie-HOL, A ruh-BEL |
| ITALY | A apu-TUN, F ION C A apu-TUN, A TYO holds |
| RUSSIA | F bot-SWE, F SEV-rum, A UKR S F SEV-rum, A MOS-sev |
| TURKEY | A BUL-rum, F ank-BLA, A ARM S [Russian] A MOS-sev |

SOME NOTES:

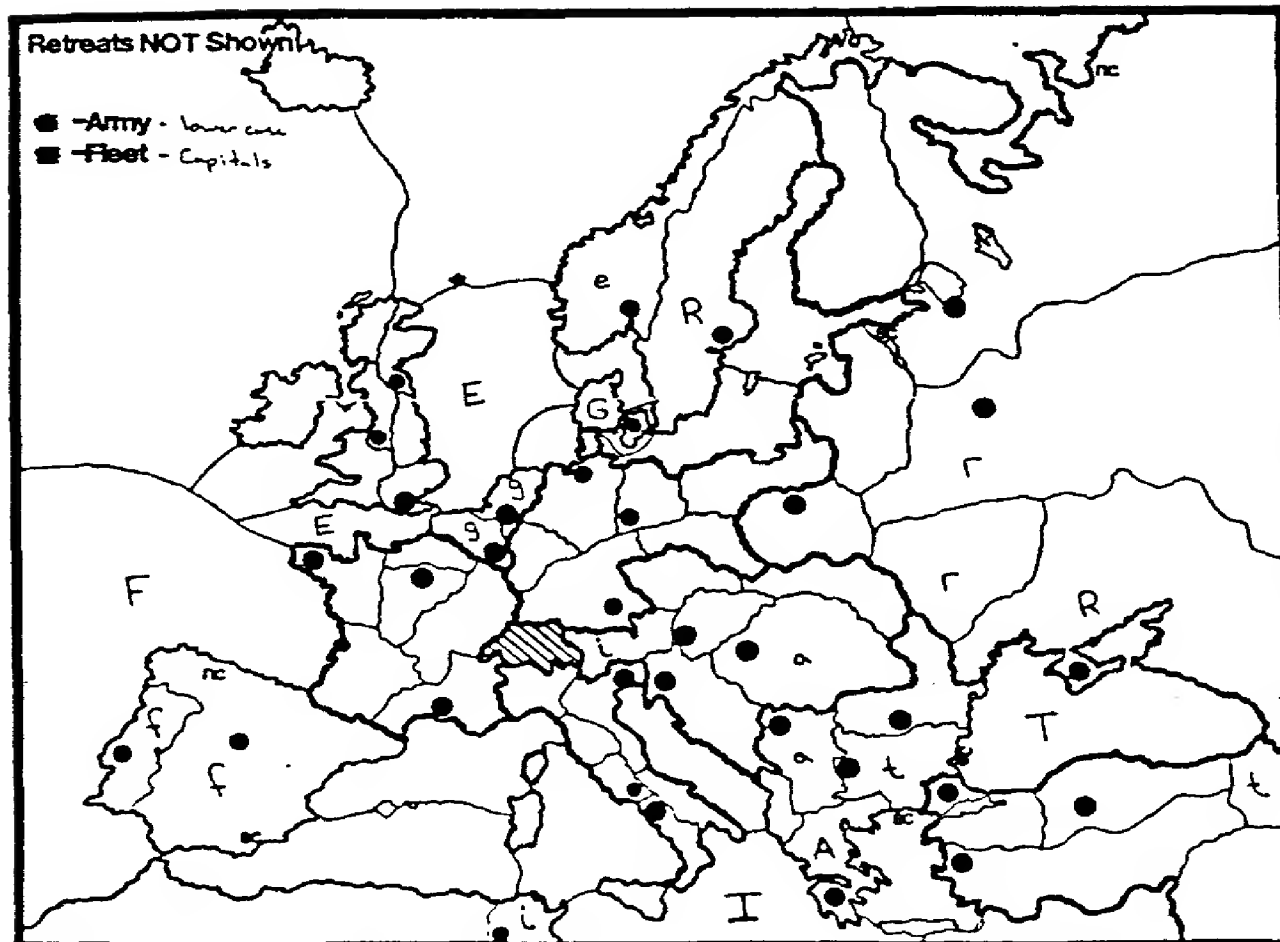
- * New maps opposite this page and courtesy of Don Williams. I like 'em.
- * The Turkish support order had me stumped for a second but a quick glance confirmed that my adjudication was correct: IX, 3 - "Self-Dislodgement Prohibited" - "...an order to move into a space occupied by another unit of the same country may not succeed if the second unit fails to leave that space." Case closed.
- * Winter 1901 adjustments are due by Wednesday, November 9. INTERLOPER will be published the following Friday [November 11]. Mail 'em soon. SC Chart below.
- * Spring 1902 orders and press are due by Wednesday, November 30.

Supply Center Chart for Winter 1901

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| AUS [50] | bud,tri,vie.+SER.+GRE.....+2; | build two |
| ENG [40] | lon.liv,edi.+NWY.....+1; | build one |
| FRF [50] | bre.par.mar.+SPA.+POR.....+2; | build two |
| GER [60] | ber.mun.kie.+DEN.+BEL.+HOL.....+3; | build three |
| ITA [40] | rom.ven.nap.+TUN.....+1; | build one |
| RUS [50] | stp.mos.war.sev.+SWE.....+1; | build one |
| TUR [40] | con.ank.smy.+BUL.....+1; | build one |

THE PRESS:

VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN : Austrian refugees continue to enter Liechtenstein from Vorarlberg province in the Austrian Tyrol. They report the Italian army is causing great consternation and is monopolizing the ski lifts. Reports of the army's imminent departure continue, but conflict as to its destination. No comment from Rome.



BERLIN - MUNICH : If an Italian answers the phone, Rome will be razed.

STOCKHOLM (August 14, 1901) : Fisherman's market was abuzz today with stories of a large gray whale swimming just below the surface of Stockholm harbor. Many sailors claimed to have seen the whale, and a few reported it as having, "a large, single eye at the end of some type of appendage, which at times rose up above the surface of the water." Some believe that the mysterious eye is evidence that the whale is a weird mutant, and that it breathes through its strange projection. To support their theory they submit that not one sailor has been said to have seen the whale surface for air.

Another possible explanation of the sightings is the rumor that the Russians have developed a sailing vessel which can remain underwater for long periods of time, and that one of these so-called "sub-marines" is in the harbor performing reconnaissance for the Russian fleet currently on maneuvers in the Gulf of Bothnia. Rear Admiral Lars Claesen, head of Swedish naval intelligence, dismissed the notion of the existence of underwater vessels and a possible Russian invasion of Sweden by saying: "We are a peaceful people, and we have remained neutral even as our good neighbor Denmark was occupied by the Germans. The Czar does not want to lose face with the rest of Europe by invading a neutral country; if he had, he would have seized Rumania last spring. And as for the idea of a 'sub-marine,' it is preposterous to believe Russia has the technology to build such a vessel. Besides, the B.O. would be unbearable!"

A QUICKIE PLAYLIST

The Doors. THE DOORS Jim Morrison and crew's first album I believe. Just an amazing collection of some classic tunes encompassing many of the different styles that were to make this group so popular. Everytime I hear "The End" I can't help but think of APOCALYPSE NOW! Traffic. MR. FANTASY [Can't say anything but, great tape! Diverse is the key word when talking about any Traffic album. From psychedelic to toe-tapping! Prince Far I and the Arabs. CRY TUFF DUB ENCOUNTER CHAPTER I [For those times when your, oh, typing up a zine and don't want to be bothered by lyrics; reggae instrumentalists].

"Deep In the Heart of Austria Trouble's a'Brewin'"

The Players:

| | | |
|---------|-------------------|--|
| AUSTRIA | Thomas THORNSEN | 113 Glensummer Rd, Holbrook, NY 11741 |
| ENGLAND | Barry HAWES [COA] | 11411 Old Pond Dr, Glenn Dale, MD 20769 |
| FRANCE | Pete GAUGHAN | 3105 East Park Row #132, Arlington, TX 76010-3710 |
| GERMANY | Mike HENRY | 3755 Capital of Texas Hwy S. Suite 130, Austin, TX 78704 |
| ITALY | Jim DIEHL | 10530 Riverview Dr, Eden Prairie, MN 55347 |
| RUSSIA | Vince SHOUBA | PO Box 2671, Houston, TX 77252 |
| TURKEY | Eric WALTON | PO Box 187 Station B, Nashville, TN 37275 |

Fall 1901 Orders

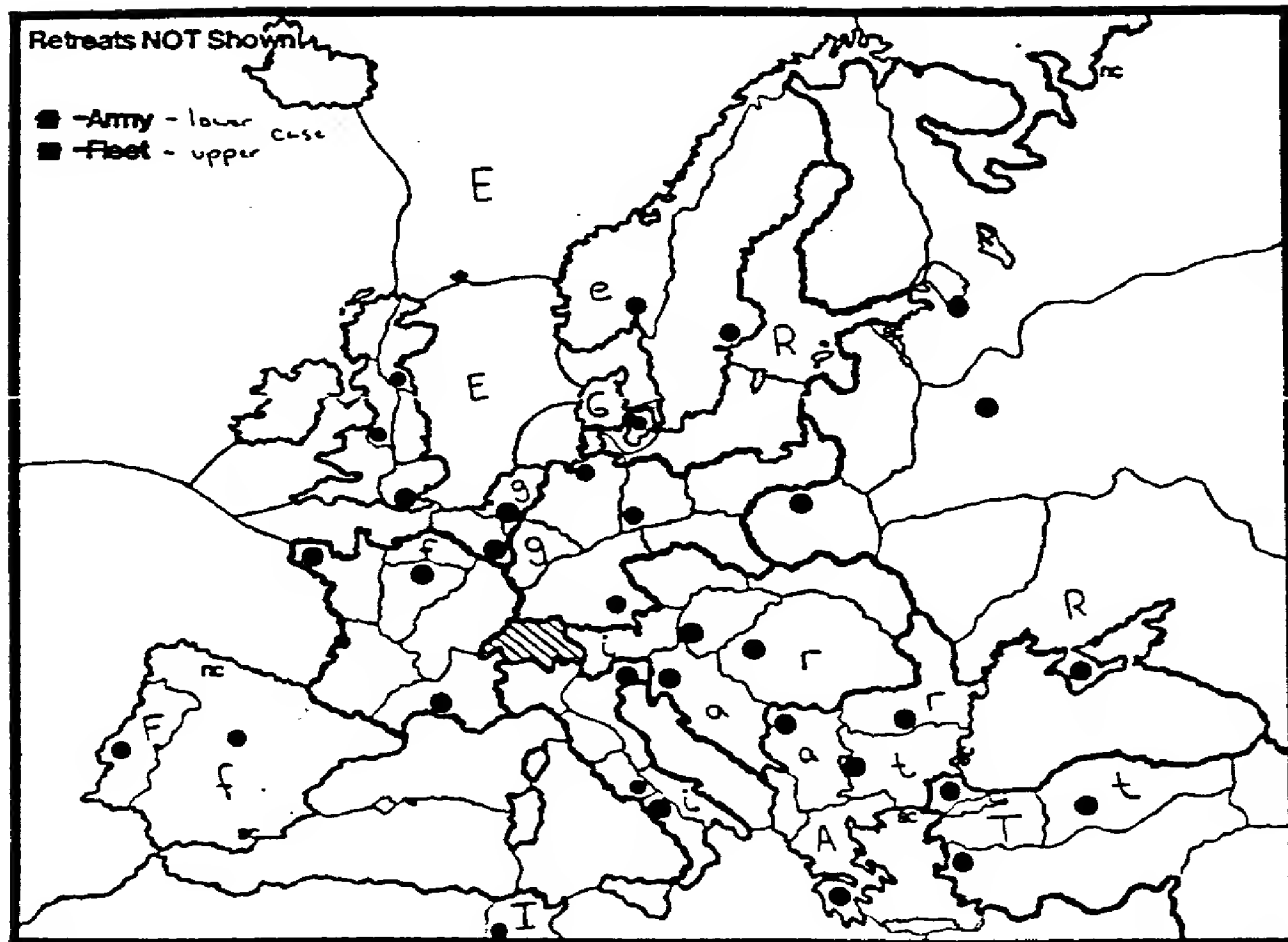
| | |
|---------|--|
| AUSTRIA | F alb-GRE, A SER S F alb-GRE, A vie-TRI |
| ENGLAND | A edi-NWY, F NWG C A edi-NWY, F nat-hol (nsu), F NTH holds (unordered) |
| FRANCE | A SPA holds, A PIC-bel, F mao-POR |
| GERMANY | F DEN-swe, A kie-HOL, A RUH-bel |
| ITALY | A ven-TRD, A rom-APU, F ion-TUN |
| RUSSIA | E BQT-swe, A ukr-RUM, F SEV S A ukr-RUM, A gal-BUD |
| TURKEY | A BUL-gre, F ank-CON, A smy-ANK |

THE NOTES:

- * "nsu" means that there is "no such unit" in existence on the board.
- * New map opposite this page courtesy of Don Williams.
- * Please note Barry Hawes' new address. Hope the move went smoothly Barry!
- * Deadline for Winter 1901 adjustments is Wednesday, November 9. That's soon so please get early! INTERLOPER will be published the following Friday [November 11]. SC chart below.
- * Supply centers enclosed in slashes i.e. /bud/ are supply centers that have been lost since that particular power since the previous winter.
- * Spring 1902 orders and press are due by Wednesday, November 30.

Supply Center Chart for Winter 1901

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----|-----------|
| AUS [4] | vie.tri./bud/.+GRE.+SER..... | +1: | build one |
| ENG [4] | lon.edi.liv.+NWY..... | +1: | build one |
| FRA [5] | bre.par.mar.+SPA.+POR..... | +2: | build two |
| GER [5] | ber.kie.mun.+HOL.+DEN..... | +2: | build two |
| ITA [4] | rom.ven.nap.+TUN..... | +1: | build one |
| RUS [6] | etc.mos.war.sev.+BUD.+RUM..... | +2: | build two |
| TUR [4] | con.ank.smy.+BUL..... | +1: | build one |



THE PRESS:

ST. PETERSBURG : The Tsar deems it beneath his honor to respond to proclamations made by Turkish diplomats of late, and doubts that the Sultan intends the dismissal of these irresponsible persons from his illustrious service.

FRANCE - IK : Oops. I confused Mike Henry with Mike Whitty, also from Austin. My sincere apologies to Germans fans everywhere, and to the fine, upstanding Prussian whom I've never met, whatever he does for a living.

ST. PETERSBURG - VIENNA : The best regards and cordial apologies of the Russian regime. Everyone seemed to be scheming against everyone, and a difficult choice had to be made.

ROME - VIENNA : I went to APU, so did I get TYO?

BUDAPEST : Generals ordering the Russian occupation expressed great respect for the venerable culture of the Austrian Empire. Care was taken to suppress any license on the part of the troops, to preserve the existing institutions, and to court the favor of the populace.

ALWAYS THE BRIDESMAID

This is THE SCRIBBLERIST's little ol' standby list, and since we're playing games now I thought I might as well throw it in. The list has taken a beating recently due to the fact that three people NMRed in the Gunboat game. So please sign on if you've got the urge; also, let me know if you'd standby for the Snowball Fighting game. Remember, you get one free issue for signing up and two more if you take over a position. Let me know if you want on or off the list : Diehl, Salvatore, York, Hurley, Greger, Hawes, Shouba, Fargo, Orne, Hollev, Heinowski, Ben-Israel, McCrumb, Williams, and Wilson. Thank to one and all (but we could always use more brave souls).

"Rulers 'Ill', Their Continued Leadership Called Into Question"

The Players:

This is gunboat, how stupid do you think I am? Don't answer that.

Remember, you are playing - _____.

Please standby for - _____.

Spring 1901 Orders

| | |
|---------|---|
| AUSTRIA | NMR! A bud-SER, F tri-ALB, A VIE holds |
| ENGLAND | NMR! F edi-NWG, F lon-NTH, A liv-EDI |
| FRANCE | F bre-ENG, A mar-SPA, A par-GAS |
| GERMANY | A ber-KIE, A mun-BUR, F kie-HOL |
| ITALY | A ven-TYO, a rom-VEN, F nap-ION |
| RUSSIA | NMR! F stp(sc)-BOT, A war-UKR, A MOS holds, F sev-RUM |
| TURKEY | A con-BUL, A smy-ANK, F ank-CON |

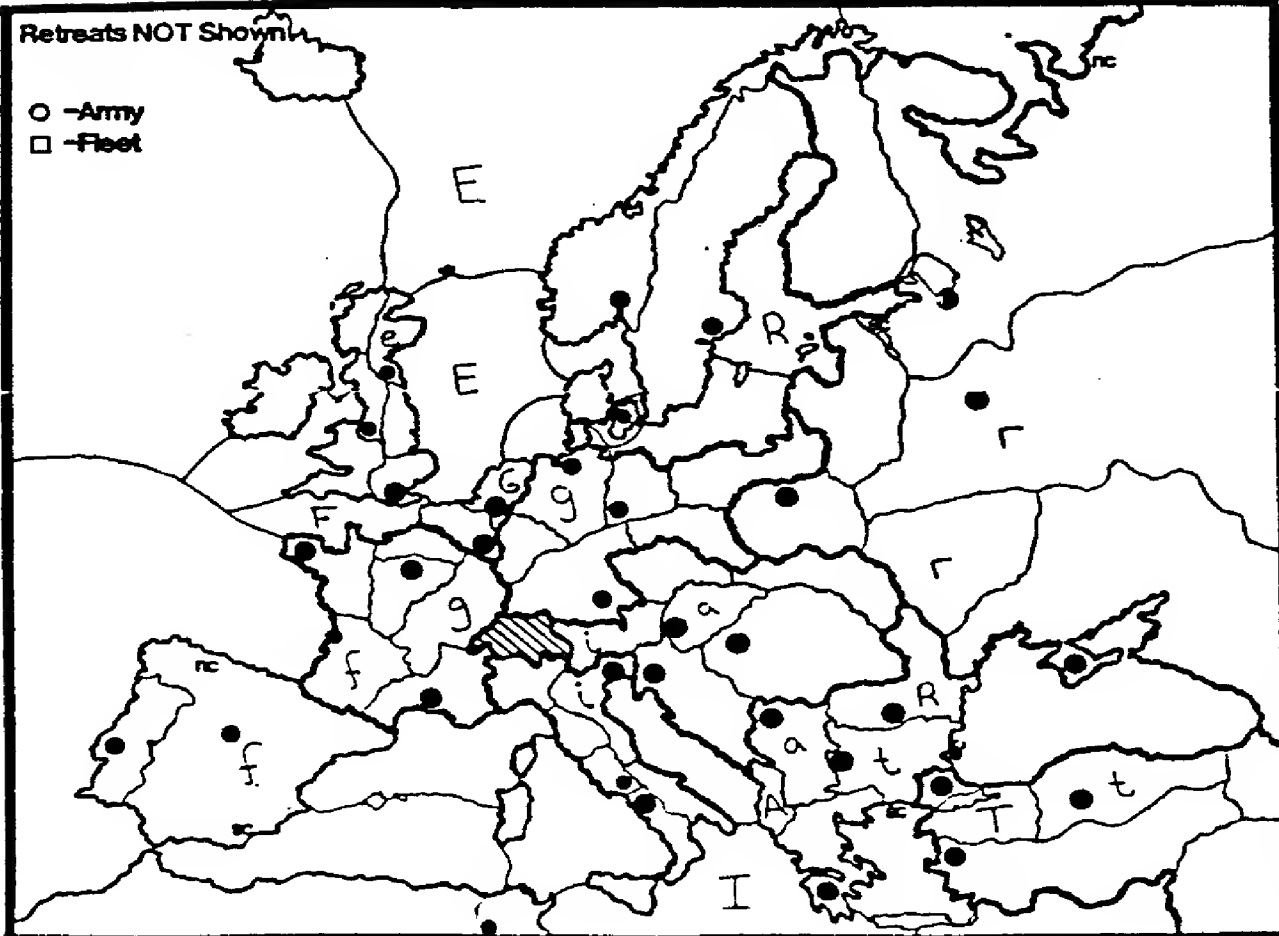
GAME NOTES:

- * As you can see, there were three NMRs this season. Luckily I didn't have to delay the adjudication because the "Phantom" player submitted moves for all seven powers. I accept part of the blame for not making the gamestart all that obvious. No excuse this time around, though, so let's get those orders in.
- * I had to edit some press that was a little too close to "negotiating." Remember, the press for this game is meant to be fun, a chance to blow off steam. Also, non-players are welcome to submit press.
- * Deadline for Fall 1901 orders and press is November 23, one week before the regular Diplomacy deadline. Mail early.

THE PRESS:

DI-RNA - WORLD : In a unanimous vote of the tribal assembly, the Western Kurds decided against holding their Fall Cavalry Roundup and open market rug sale in the Crimean resort of Yalta. They voted instead for a late summer rendezvous at their old standby campground, Cappadocia Meadows, in the mountains near Ankara. Merchants in the area expressed disappointment by the withdrawal but all families with teenage virgin daughters were relieved.

We've got quite a bit of space left over so I'm just going to go ahead and list all the times I receive (hopefully I'll review them next ish) : Dipsomania, Diplomacy Digest, Everything, Carolina Command and Commentary, Cross Rifles, Excelsior, The Apalachian General, Costaquana, Excitement City Unlimited, Feuillettonist's Forum, Gallimaufry, Hagalil Hamaarvi, Fiat Bellum, Life of Monty, The Kangaroo Kicker, Ode, Rebel, Diplomacy World News, Ter-ran, The Gamer's Zine, Graustark, Angst United, Benzene, Bushwacker, The Canadian Diplomat, Cathy's Ramblings, House of Lords, The Last Resort, Northern Flame, Passchendaele, Perelandra, Son of Flip, Praxis, Retaliation,



Thorazeen, Vertigo, The Volcano City News, The Zine Register, Prisoners of War, War and Peace, Random Thought, and possibly, Pilot Light. Good lord! That's forty-three different zines. I hadn't realized that I received so many (and though some publishers will beg to differ, I try to contribute a little something to each of them). Boy, no wonder I don't have any free time anymore. Looking back over the list I think I'll spread the reviews out over a couple issues. We'll see.

URBANE SCRAWL Part III

Life here at the U. Well, it's interesting to say the least. Academically, I'm more than willing to accept the blame for the "interest" generated. Being the typical college student I push everything back to the last minute or till the pile of books on my desk threatens to fall over and crush me in my sleep. Usually those two events coincide quite well so I never really have to go through more than 4 weeks of utter, academic hell every month. Hey, who's complaining, it gives me about half a week that I'm free to worry about other things. It's rough, yes, but the classes are interesting. But is it worth all the 4 AM "nights?" Probably.

Socially I've got no major complaints. Actually, except for the dreaded "days after" I'm having a great time at all the parties and mixers. Go out with the boys, throw down a couple beers, ogle at a few women (with a heartfelt apologies to the gentle ladies of the reading audience), make a few new friends, enjoy a laugh or two, throw down a couple more beers, laugh some more, drink some more, ogle, drink, laugh, go home, eat lots of food, drink a lot of water, pop some aspirin, and go to sleep. Hopefully, the next morning you'll wake bright-eyed and bushy-tailed. Unfortunately, it rarely works that way as you become rather intimate with your friendly neighborhood ceramic bathroom fixture. Ugh! It ain't fun. But hey, you've got all those memories of the night before. That is, of course, if you didn't black out, in which case you'll spend the next week trying to find out exactly what you did with that leather belt, wall outlet, avocado, and holster. Mmmmm, that's tasty!

The Grand Bizarre

Issue One

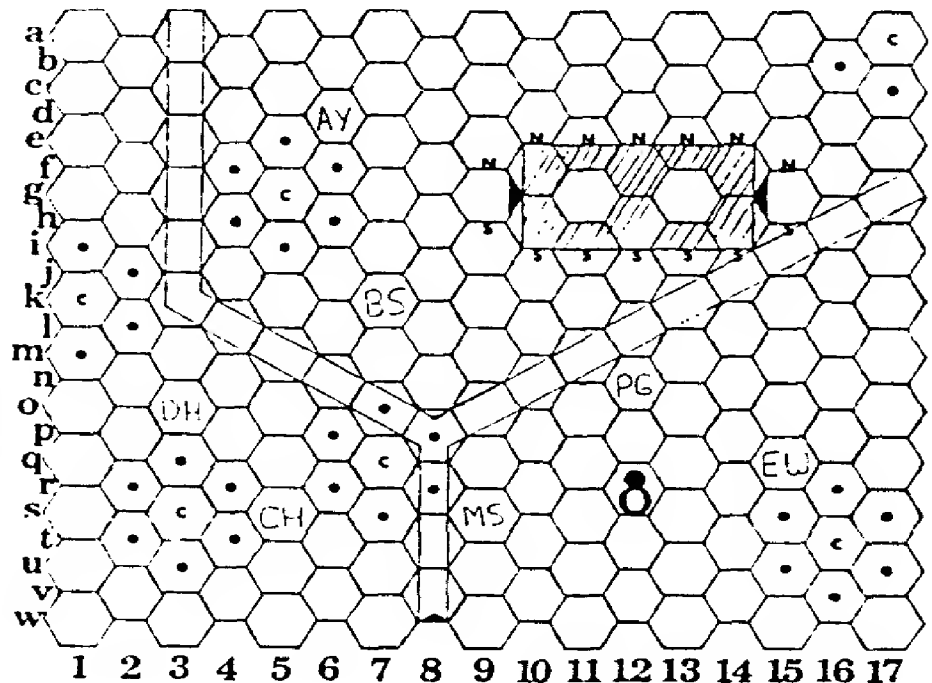
Is this the long promised subzine? Naw, it's just me again. I decided to go ahead and run the Snowball Fighting game as a pseudo separate entity in the zine in case I get behind in adjudications or some such nonsense which we both no will never happen, pshaw! Also, this is my vehicle for any future non-dip related games [aside from a United League] that I may run in the future, the distant future. So, enjoy the premier issue of TGB and, as always, comments are welcome.

Khoi-San — Gamestart

Yes, that's right, we're finally getting the "Snowball Fighting" game underway. I decided to go ahead with the seven players already signed up since I received no inquiries/responses since TS #4 went out. Players and initial positions below:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| David Hood (DH) | 03 |
| Chris Hurley (CH) | S5 |
| Andrew York (AY) | D6 |
| Bill Salvatore (BS) | K7 |
| Michael Schnelker (MS) | S9 |
| Pete Gaughan (PG) | N12 |
| Eric Walton (EW) | O15 |

Addresses printed below. I really don't know how much diplomacy this will require, but it's better to be safe than sorry. And remember, this is a very silly game so just have fun with it.



| | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| David Hood | 15-F Estes Park | Carrsboro, NC | 27510 |
| Chris Hurley | 3508 Orbitan Rd | Parkville, MD | 21234 |
| Andrew York | 14001 Oak Meadows #917 | Universal City, TX | 78148 |
| Bill Salvatore | 19985 Wild Cherry Ln | Waters Landing, MD | 20874 |
| Michael Schnelker | 6611 Newburgh Place | Fort Wayne, IN | 46835 |
| Pete Gaughan | 3105 E. Park Row #132 | Arlington, TX | 76010-3710 |
| Eric Walton | PO Box 187 Station B | Nashville, TN | 37275 |

Orders are due by November 23 so mail early! Press is highly encouraged as it lends a lot to a game as irreverent as tis. Also, if there are no objections, I'd like to get some guest press going [Hey Don! how 'bout it? If you can do it for Pete why not for me?]. For all you rookies out there, I'd suggest you read over the rules one more time and remember to submit orders for all three Segments of Turn One.

So send off these orders (and press!) to: Junior SnowMaster, Mark Lilleleht.

Good luck and have fun!

Thus we arrive at the end of issue one of that stellar new subzine, THE GRAND BIZARRE. Yes, Tom, you've got competition now in this ol' zine but I do believe that there is room enough for both of us. By the way, if anybody else out there would be interested in doing a subzine let me know and we'll see if something could be worked out. Well, that's all. Remember me next year in the Runestone Poil.

..... PENCILS DOWN AND HAND YOUR PAPERS TO THE FRONT, CLASS!

See, I guess last month's questions were rather difficult. I didn't think that they'd be too hard to look up in just about any encyclopedia or some such reference work. Well, actually, I take that back. Looking back at the questions I see that they were rather eclectic. Oops! A grand total of seven readers responded, which effectively swelled the ranks of those with one correct answer for the entire quiz. But before we get to the standings let's take a look at the answers to last month's quiz:

1) The paleontologist in question was Georges Cuvier. A very intelligent scientist but one who was doomed to misinterpretation because, as Dave Palmer pointed out, he did his field work in areas where substantial gaps in the rock record existed.

2) The "matriarch" and "patriarch" of the Ethiopian Church are King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

3) The record for the greatest number of kisses in a single movie is held by the 1926 Warner Brothers release, "Don Juan." It starred John Barrymore and lasted 2 hours and 47 minutes, peppered heavily throughout with a total of 191 kisses.

4) The Soviet official on trial for corruption is Brezhnev's son-in-law, Yuri Churbanov.

So far the standings look like this [by # of correct answers]:

- 1 - Gaughan, York, Hurley, Williams, Martin, McCrumb, and Holley.
- 2 - Ben-Israel, *lew*, White, and Salvatore.
- 3 - Thorsen and Palmer.
- 4 - none!
- 5 - Walton and Greger.
- 6 - Justin
- 7 - none!
- 8 - Orne

Things are winding down. This issues quiz will be the last in this series so go ahead and try to grab as many free half-issues as possible!

NOTES FROM THE UNDERGROUND

What have we got hear? Well, it's the home of reader submitted lists which were frightfully paltry in number this time around. Come on, it's your chance for fame and fortune in the eyes of your fellow subscribers. My thanks go out to Brad Wilson who sent me two pages of lists [which I'll spread out over the next few issues]. And, of course, I'll throw in one or two. All right, calm down; it's not that exciting.

Brad Wilson's First Five CDs He Did Buy:

1. PRETZEL LOGIC - Steely Dan
2. AIA / VOLCANO - Jimmy Buffett
3. EXILE ON MAIN STREET - Rolling Stones
4. BEETHOVEN SYMPHONIES - Karajan [directing the] Berlin Philharmonic
5. GIANT STEPS - John Coltrane

Charles Greger's Seven Tapes For Those Long Four Hundred Mile Drives To Cons:

1. TALES FROM TOPOGRAPHIC OCEANS - Yes Symphonic rock at it's very best.
2. BURSTING OUT - Jethro Tull Technical wizardry and, of course, Ian's virtuoso flute. "A Hunting Girl" is a typical super-track.
3. ELECTRIC LADYLAND - The Jimi Hendrix Experience One of the top three Hendrix albums and one I must include for his superb guitar.
4. EMERSON, LAKE, AND PALMER - Emerson, Lake, and Palmer This tape should fulfill anyone's classical rock keyboards requirements, and the other performers don't do too badly, either.
5. HEMISPHERES - Rush Believe it or not, this group supposedly modeled themselves

- after Yes. All members seriously underrated; Peart's percussion and Lee's bass, especially, deserve a listen.
6. QUADROPHENIA - The Who Not much to say here. Simply put, this group is the classical rock sound. All the instruments are pretty much properly balanced throughout the tape.
 7. UMMAGUMMA - Pink Floyd Make sure you stay on the road when listening to this one. Maximus Freakus.

The Extent Of Your Publisher's Hobby Involvement:

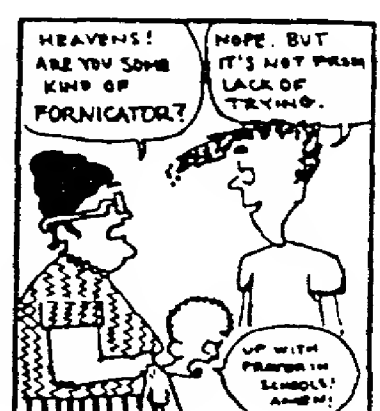
1. Publishes THE SCRIBBLERIST.
2. Diplomacy games - 198BCN [Perelandra], 1987HZ [Ter-ran], "The Timorous Tourist" [Costaquana], and 1987HR [Graustark].
3. Gunboat games - Yeah, right! I ain't allowed to say.
4. United leagues - Angst United [Division II], The Kangaroo Kicker [Division III].
5. Downfall - "Braised Celery" [Excitement City Unlimited].
6. Future - A subzine [untitled] to Dipsomania [a new Belgian publication], another United league [Pilot Light], and who knows what else, I'm on everyone's standby list.

Brad Wilson's Ten Books He Intends To Read:

1. COLLECTED WORKS - Flannery O'Connor
2. NICHOLAS NICKELBY - Charles Dickens
3. ANNA KARENIN - Leo Tolstoy
4. THE POSSESSED - Fyodor Dostoyevsky
5. Charles Murray's latest
6. MODERN TIMES - Paul Johnson
7. THE BROTHER'S KARAMAZOV - Fyodor Dostoyevsky
8. STRATEGY - Edward Luttwak
9. SENSE AND SENSIBILITY - Jane Austen
10. UNDER THE GREENWOOD TREE - Thomas Hardy

Tom Nash's Cure For Insipid Playlists:

1. KIND OF BLUE - Miles Davis
2. TRACY CHAPMAN - Tracy Chapman
3. LOVESEX - Prince
4. HOUSE PARTY NEW ORLEANS STYLE - Professor Longhair
5. IRISH HEARTBEAT - Van Morrison and the Chieftains
6. THE BEST OF LOUIS ARMSTRONG - Louis Armstrong
7. DREAM OF LOVE - Patti Smith
8. SIMPLE PLEASURES - Bobby McFerrin
9. THE LION AND THE COBRA - Sinead O'Connor
10. PENGUIN CAFE ORCHESTRA - Penguin Cafe Orchestra



URBANE SCRAWL
Part IV

Ah ha, time for my much heralded commentary on religion. Why am I doing this? Well, in part to stimulate discussion on what I consider to be a fascinating topic (unabashedly, part of the reason I want to major in anthropology), but also because I thought it was time to put my own views down on paper. It will help me to get a better grasp on how I actually think and may even bring about changes in my own thinking. Am I trying to convince you of something or convert you to my own system of belief? No, but it never really hurts to evaluate your beliefs, and if it brings about a change for the better than I'm all the happier.

I am, by inclination, an atheist. Why should I tell you that? It's important that I recognize my own biases and make them known to others before I try to explain my beliefs. For a long time I vacillated and labeled myself an agnostic, more for the reason that I wished to avoid being assaulted by zealots. At least there is some hope for me in their eyes, I thought, and so was hesitant to accept the fact that deep down inside I can not come to believe in the existence of some "divine" spirit. Does this mean I'm anti-religious, anti-church, anti-clerical, etc, etc? Hardly. As Don Williams pointed out ones belief systems are totally their own and I have no right to impose my beliefs on others and vice versa. If one chooses to belief in the Catholic god, the Moslem god, the Hindu gods, or what have you, that is his/her decision. I may not agree but I am not one to impose my views by coercion or force. I am also the first to recognize the contributions of the Church both to modern day society and the growth of civilization. The ideas that came out of the medieval church were often misguided and the Crusades are but one aspect of the barbarity and savagery that was perpetrated in God's name. It is easy to look back as a modern christian and chalk these up to misinterpretation of the scriptures or the corruption of the Church by politics and in the process reaffirm the correctness of your own actions. Yet what is it that makes your interpretation necessarily correct? During the Middle Ages the Church fathers were just as sure of the correctness of their doctrine as the modern christian is of his/hers.

It is most likely that a future historian will look back on our age and be shocked by the barbarity of our own time. But I don't want to condemn the church or the values that it fosters. The medieval church preserved ancient texts, kept learning and thinking alive, served as a great comforting mechanism and essentially was the weave which held together society. And through the intervening years it hasn't lost its influence or power. Yes, it has changed its face and its methods but deep down at the core of the individual's faith I believe the purpose is the same. A belief in a diety and an afterlife is comforting not only because one always has a force to appeal to for help (and being omnipotent as the christian god is, if the appeal is justified and the subject has been "good" than help should be forthcoming; always put your faith in the lord, isn't that what they say) as well as providing an answer to the question that has, and probably always, elude mankind: what happens after death. An afterlife is a very comforting concept for it is impossible for man to conceive of "nothing." Our very nature, the very fact that we think, keeps us from being able to grasp the concept of total, absolute, complete non-existence. It's frightening; I'm frightened by it; and the traditional answer to this (in both christian and non-christian societies) has been to form belief systems that allow for a continuation in some form or another of the human essence. The problem is that the evolution of these systems has resulted in a certain amount of distrust, dislike, and hate among groups. As religious systems gain in power they become the subject and the instigator of prejudices.

My own belief is what could at best be described as a somewhat scientific vision of the universe. Physicists have long been striving to formulate an universal law to bring all motions and actions and reactions into one tidy equation. I firmly believe that this can and will be done someday, but most likely not for a long time. To me nature is what God is to the Christian. Everything behaves in a certain way because of certain natural laws. We know most of these laws yet we are hard pressed when trying to tie all of these disparate laws together. But on some level there exists a fundamental connection between all of these laws. Science and theology will become one. Nature/God will be all pervasive as Christians believe and will in fact be an actor in the everyday life of people. The difference will be in the way we view this "god." My main objection is that God is traditionally personified as being a wise old man. He is given a will and a desire to shape things. This is a false conception of the essence of a nature-god which will be seen to have no active, assertive will of its own. It will

exist, it will guide things, but it will not have favorites. Casting God in your image makes it much too tempting to draw the conclusion that "he" favors one people over another. Why should moslems and christians be so much at odds? Both believe in an almighty power that guides men through life and into an afterlife. Once men and women begin to realize that there are no favorites of nature. Not all men are created equal, not everybody is suited to live in a different climatic or cultural area but that does not make him unfit or less of a person. That unity that christianity provided through Europe quickly broke down when it was confronted by differing beliefs. That is the frightening legacy of christian faith. The unity of man has disappeared; mannow battles man in an effort to show te supremacy of their own personification of the overarching structure of the universe.

Maybe I'm not an athiest in the traditional sense of the word. Yet I object to the games played by modern day institutionalized religion and more important I object to the concept that one set of beliefs is better than the other. It's an individual choice. I am an athiest in that I reject what I perceive as a dangerous personification of basic, immutable laws. We will never be able to grasp the immensity of these laws. They are at once amazing vast and complex but necessarily very basic and indifferent. They have no will of their own, they are not entities, yet they shaped our universe. We are,essentially, slaves to these laws, yet we are given an amzing freedom to utilize these laws to our benefit. A sacrilege against the divine? Hardly. They exist and the choice to manipulate them rests solely with any sentient being which grasps their importance.

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

Well, the hobby has been rather lacadasical in producing news easily rejurgitated for your enjoyment so things are, well, cancelled for this issue. It also doesn't help that I'm quickly running out of space for this issue. Plenty of feuding is going on as the Martins and such continue their attacks on Linsey and Linsey continues to shoot back by sending out those "Response to..." mailings. Sure it's entertaining, but after a while it begins to wear a little thin as ou hear the same arguments over and over again.

Quickly, onto other matters. There are plenty of ooenings out there in all sorts of variants and regular diplomacy games [not to mention the opening of my novice game]. Two notables are George Mann [1701 NW 81st Way, Plantation, FL 33322] who has started a new zine, SON OF FLIP, with a wrestling bent but with openings in regular and gunboat Diplomacy [along with a wrestling simulation], and G.A. 'Jeff' Bryant [Rue Jean Pauly 121, B-4300 Ans. Belgium] who has started publishing DIPSCMANIA with openings in Cline V. India, Diplomacy [regular and gunboat], Bourse, and Twin Earth. If your interested in getting involved in the overseas hobby you may want to consider breaking in on the ground level. All for now. Bye.

YOU HAVE THIRTY MINUTES. BEGIN

These are the last four questions of this quiz series. Hurry and get your free half issues [for each correct answer] while you still can. Easier this time? I don't know. We'll see. But at least give it a try, you can't lose, and it won't give you AIDS unless you're sharing a dirty zine with a friend.

- 1) Name the four members of the rock group, Traffic.
- 2) Name the Eastern European leader who recently announced his resignation as Premier of his country though he retained the position of Secretary-General.
- 3) Who was the underworld figure of the '20's and '30's who acquired the nickname of "Creepy"?
- 4) And the final question : What is the origin of the name "Lilleleht"? In other words, based on the linguistics surrounding my name, from what nation did my father emigrate?

BACKWASH
[Urbane Scrawl Part V]

Oh boy, we ran a little long this issue and according to the postmaster will just be squeezing in the one ounce limit. I really find it hard to believe how much the zine has grown. What was originally intended to be a low circulation eight page newsletter has blossomed into what you have before you, a twenty four page zine with a circulation of nearly fifty! Amazing. Remember, I can't do it all by myself and hope you'll feel the urge to contribute a little something now and again. And never hesitate to let me know what I'm doing wrong or right; you're an integral part of this beastly!

A couple quick closing notes. I'll probably run the survey of you people in the next issue so if you have any ideas on what you'd like to know about your fellow subscribers let me know. Also, if you're on the standby list make sure you recheck the "BaNgwana" adjudication to see if you were called on to submit orders.

Well, I'll be wrapping this up now. Again, I apologize for the lateness of this issue but I hope you'll understand and stick with me. After all, we are having fun here, aren't we? I hope so. Till next time, take care.

Circulation : 48

Fresh Meat - Jef Bryant [T]; George Mann [T]; Rory Noble [T]; Joseph Santella [T]; Nick Sebrell [C+10]; Pierre Touchette [13]; Don Williams [12].

Old Hands - Scott Beckett [1]; Ran Ben-Israel [T]; Simon Billenness [T]; Heidi Brown [C]; Francois Guerrier [MS-\$3.65]; Fred Davis [T]; Don Del Grande [T]; Jim Diehl [14]; Charles Fargo [T]; Pete Gaughan [13]; Charles Greger [3]; Chuck Hanna [22]; Barry Hawes [13]; Steve Heinowski [T]; Mike Henry [12]; Melinda Holley [24]; David Hood [T]; Chris Hurley [13]; John Justin [C]; Bruce Linsey [17]; Julie Martin [T]; David McCrumb [T]; Tom Nash [15]; Jim Nickel [12]; David Orne [15]; Cathy Ozog [12]; Dave Palmer [12]; Ken Peel [3xT]; Larry Perry [C]; Bill Salvatore [12]; Michael Schnelker [13]; Vince Shouba [13]; Thomas Thorsen [22]; Conrad von Metzke [T]; Eric Walton [12]; Cal White [T]; Jimmy Williams [6]; Brad Wilson [T]; Andrew York [13].

Samplers - Jason Bergmann; Byron Gutierrez.

Actual Handwritten Correspondence To You [maybe]

Larry,

Yep, I'm still alive and publishing. Haven't heard from you in a while and I'd like to know what you think of TS. Take care and enjoy.

Best,



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Number 1 October, 1988 Publisher: Tom Nash (301) 254-2836
5512 Pilgrim Road Baltimore, MD 21214 CIS ID # 73676,3310

Welcome to the premiere issue of Been There, Done That, the world's first Diplomacy subzine to two separate zines in two distinct media. BT,DT is a subzine of Mark Lilleheht's The Scribblerist in hard copy, and distributed with it through the U.S. Postal Service. It is also, simultaneously, a subzine to Ken Hill's The Armchair Diplomat, and distributed electronically with TAD in Data Library 5 (the Diplomacy DL) of the Gamer's SIG on the Compuserve Information Network. One of the purposes of BT,DT is to serve as a bridge between the PBM and PBEM segments of the Diplomacy hobby. To get folks in both parts of the hobby aware of the other, generate some mutual interest, and maybe even to induce some PBmers with modems to try PBEM, and some PBEMers to dip their toes in the waters of the bigger PBM community. The other purpose, of course, is for me to enjoy myself, which I intend to do thoroughly!

Some of you may be getting this in hard copy through other means than with The Scribblerist. I will distribute it free to all players, standbys, traders, any anyone else I feel like sending it to (hi Mom!).

BT,DT will consist of the usual... a couple of games, some letters (hopefully real, if not, I promise you I will continue to make them up), some mindless drivel about the usual dipzine topics: baseball, music, books, feuds, and anything else I feel like foisting on you, the unsuspecting public. I have also decided to include The DipDom Tattler, an anonymously written and compiled collection of hobby gossip delivered to my doorstep in the middle of the night. I have no idea of its authorship, nor do I vouch for its authenticity. So take it with a grain of salt.

We already have one regular Dip gamestart announced in the issue (gasp! a gamestart in his first issue? How does he do it?), and I am willing to run one more game. Regular Dip, Gunboat, or Stab, a hidden movement variant. Whatever there is the most interest in. Game fees (waived in the first game in appreciation to those players helping me get out of the gate) will be \$5. I might even allow myself to be talked into running a game of Deviant Dip if there is enough interest.

BT,DTs First Game: Choo Choo Coleman No Boardman # yet

The Players:

Austria: Bob Aube 108 Nichols St. Lewiston, Me. 04240
England: Mark Walsh 12 Mount Vernon Way Whippany NJ 07981
France: Dan Cosley 530 Uxbridge Ave. Gahanna, OH 43230
Germany: Steve Smith 1440 Sutter Dr. Hanover Park, IL 60103
Italy: Susan Welter 740 River Dr. #16F, St. Paul, MN 55116.
Russia: Jeff McKee 1674 S. Parkwood Wichita, KS 67218.
Turkey: Al Tabor 3860 14th Ave Oakland CA 94602 415-531-7084

Country assignment was done by random draw. The deadline for Spring '01 orders will be November 20, 1988. We will be playing this game British style; i.e. conditional retreats sent in with both Spring and Fall moves, and conditional Winter adjustments included with Fall moves. NMRs will be handled by the War By Automatic Pilot rule, i.e. the NMRing player's last set of moves will be used again. Moves that failed on the last season may succeed during the season of the NMR. In the event of an NMR, a standby will be called to submit orders. If the original player submits orders the next season, he/she will keep the position. Otherwise, the second consecutive NMR will mean the standby takes over the position. Draws need not include all survivors. Draws must be unanimously voted by all players submitting orders for the season. In other words, NVR=No, but NMR=yes. All players will receive copies of the complete houserules as soon as I get around to putting them together. In the meantime, use Conrad Von Metzke's famous guidelines: "The Rulebook and Common Sense."

Good luck to all the players!

The Standby List

Look, obviously this is empty at the current time. I mean, give me a break, this is my first issue. As you all know, a healthy standby list is critical to the ability of a zine to run games smoothly and with as little disruption as possible. Ergo, I need some standbys! Please volunteer, the peace and freedom of the civilized world hang in the balance. Plus you get the zine, free.

THE DIPDOM TATTLER

(a column of gossip, innuendo, and half-truths).

Welcome, Dipsters, to the first installment of the Dipdom Tattler. To start off, my reports say that Chris Carrier, hobby Feud Number Custodian and Megadiplomat extraordinaire, is a' fussin' and a' feudin' with none other than BRUX, Dipdom's designated feud target. Why? Well, apparently Chris believes the rumor that BRUX called the deans of the colleges attended by the Bad Boys, Geryk, Clark, and Zarse, to tattle on their misbehavior. Thus, he figures, Brux probably found out that Geryk had dropped out before Chris had the opportunity to drop his self-proclaimed bombshell on the hobby in The Megadiplomat. Peeved that he wasn't the only person to know the gruesome truth, Carrier declared a feud in process and assigned himself a feud number.

Speaking of which, the Tattler has heard that our favorite crazed wacko, Bobby Sacks himself, has written to Carrier, demanding as Feud Number Custodian, he accept the "Covenant" of Bobby's own New York Game Board. Carrier was too busy, only the Tattler knows, checking with Immigration on Geryk's legal status, hoping for another scoop, to answer Sack's mail. Uh, oh. That's a BIG boo-boo on Bobby's list. Enraged, he has declared himself, under the outrageous pseudonym Karel Alaric, as "Feud Number Custodian Under the Most Sacred and Holy Covenant of Covenants." Ooh, sounds official Bobby! Uh.. I mean... Karel. He's issued

himself a number for this run in with Chris, and Chris an alternate feud number under the Covenant for his feud with Brux. Not content with the actions of the Diplomatic Congress this summer, Sacks has sent copies of KGO to all members of the U.S. Congress, asking them to advise him on whether to de-list Carrier. Owww... watch out Chris, that de-listing procedure can smart something awful! Accusing Carrier and the old gang (Davis, Berch, et. al.) of "crimes against humanity" Sacks urges Congress to appoint, who else, Karel Alaric, as Komisar of a new U.S. Game Board and make it a cabinet post. Meanwhile urging "delisting, delousing, decapitation, for all so-called crazed wackos who fail to..." well, enough of *that*, eh?

In the meantime, will success spoil Praxis? Rumor has Alan Stewart, Canuck celebre, developing an ego as large as his zine is usually late. Yes, *that* large! Ouch! Is that you behind those Vuarnets, Al? Only his Porsche, hot tub, and cocaine dealers know for sure. It does appear he is demanding to follow in Gretzky's footsteps and get traded to an L.A. shoe store. When's the next Praxis coming out Al? Uh huh. Right. Will we see two issues next year to vote on? Just remember, the Tattler's sources say that Sacks is talking about appointing Geryk "Praxis editor under the Covenant," if you don't clean up your act!

That's all for this month, kiddies. See you next month when the Tattler reveals that Jim-Bob Burgess owns, and *listens to* daily, the collected works of Wayne Newton! And that Kathy Caruso actually plans an issue of KK without using one inane nickname! And Herb Barents buys, and actually uses, a dictionary!! And other shocking (half) truths. Can you afford to miss it????

Letter Column

I know, I know, many of you are in a state of total shock and amazement. How does this guy do it? A gamestart in issue number 1. And now, a letter column too? In issue 1? How does he do it? Easy. I'm just that good, I guess. And I lie. BTW, some of these names look slightly, er.. familiar, no?

Dik Marten - "Your subzeen is so wonderful, so creative, so deserving of greatness, that I am actively going to plug the Runestone Poll so your zeen gets voted #1 in the subzeen category. It's the least I can do! I will urge my readers to vote at all costs!"

((Gee, uh, thanks Dik. I really appreciate it. BTW, has anyone ever told you the correct spelling of zine?))

Jon Boredman - "I may have been the first, but you're clearly the greatest!"

((Well, glad you like it Jon. Stick around the hobby a few months. OK?))

Dan Quayle - "I lost my first PBM game, so daddy bought the zine and changed the rules. Somehow, as a one center Turkey in '02 I

was declared the winner. That was neat. Can I play in your zine too?"

((Sorry, Dan, but you're no Doug Beyerlein.))

Brukz Linseed - "Astonishing effort. Will do a mass mailing in the A.M. to all hobby mother's praising this work!"

((Gee, Bruksz, could you just offer to standby instead?))

Geoff Xarse - "Mom showed me the copy you sent her. I like it! But enough of that, let me talk about my <editorial deletion>." ((Thanks for the praise Geoff, but remember, this is a family subzine. Just ask Mom))

Steve Smythe - "Don't worry, I'll stab Germany next year. Really. I mean it this time. Honest. Would I lie?"

((Yup.))

Jim Deal, Melynda Halley, Larry Bo(tt)ama, Vince Letherbe - "Can we get in a game? Two? Seven? Fifteen?"

((Look folks, I suggest you all make appointments quickly with Dr. Geryk, who specializes in the treatment of this sort of thing... it's serious. I mean it.))

David Man - "You're still slime!"

Ron Camera On - "I'm still slime! Any word from Pedro G. and my missus?"

((Sorry Ron, no word.))

Bob Awb - "Great zine Tom, but there's a teeny, tiny mistake in your adjudication..."

Alyn Stuart - "I give up! Can't compete! Am sending you my Runestone Poll award in today's mail!"

((OK Alyn, will be expecting it sometime in February))

Marc Lillywhite - "I'm depressed. Why bother going on? Eclipsed by my own subzine! Sigh... Say, got any game openings?"

((For you Marc... er... no.))

Xarse, Gerikk, and Clock - "We'll be good!"

((That's nice))

Brukz, Bob Olsin, Marc Birch, Steve Langlee, Bob Sax, Dik and Jules Marten, Jon Boredman, Gerikk, John and Cathy Karoosoe - "We're all working together in harmony to start your fan club! Thanks for being the force behind our new found friendships!"

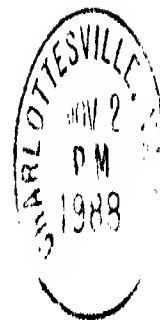
((Shucks. Anytime!))

Marc Walzch - "F Tun-Mid, A Mun S F Tun-Mid" (48 hours late).

Thanks to all who wrote, or didn't. Whatever. Auspicious start for a humble subzine and its pubber, no? Keep those letters coming or I'll just have to make-up solicit some more. See you in November, with a new President and new World Series champ.

The Scribblerist

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Games Within :
1988AY - "Bambuti"
1988CG - "Ik"
Gunboat - "Bangwana"
Snowball Fighting - "Khoi-San"

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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FIRST CLASS

FIRST CLASS

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